

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit: 7

**This exhibit is a booklet
entitled:**

**National Geographic
January 2005 Issue**

"The First American"

**It cannot be scanned in its
entirety, the front and 2 pages
that were referred to have been
scanned to aid you in your
research. The original exhibits
are on file at the Montana
Historical Society and may be
viewed there.**

**Montana Historical Society
Archives**

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2015 Legislative Scanner Susie Hamilton

EXHIBIT 1/22/15
DATE 1916

JANUARY 2015

NATURAL GEOGRAPHIC

HOW A TINY
12,000-YEAR-
OLD TEENAGER
BECAME

THE FIRST AFRICAN

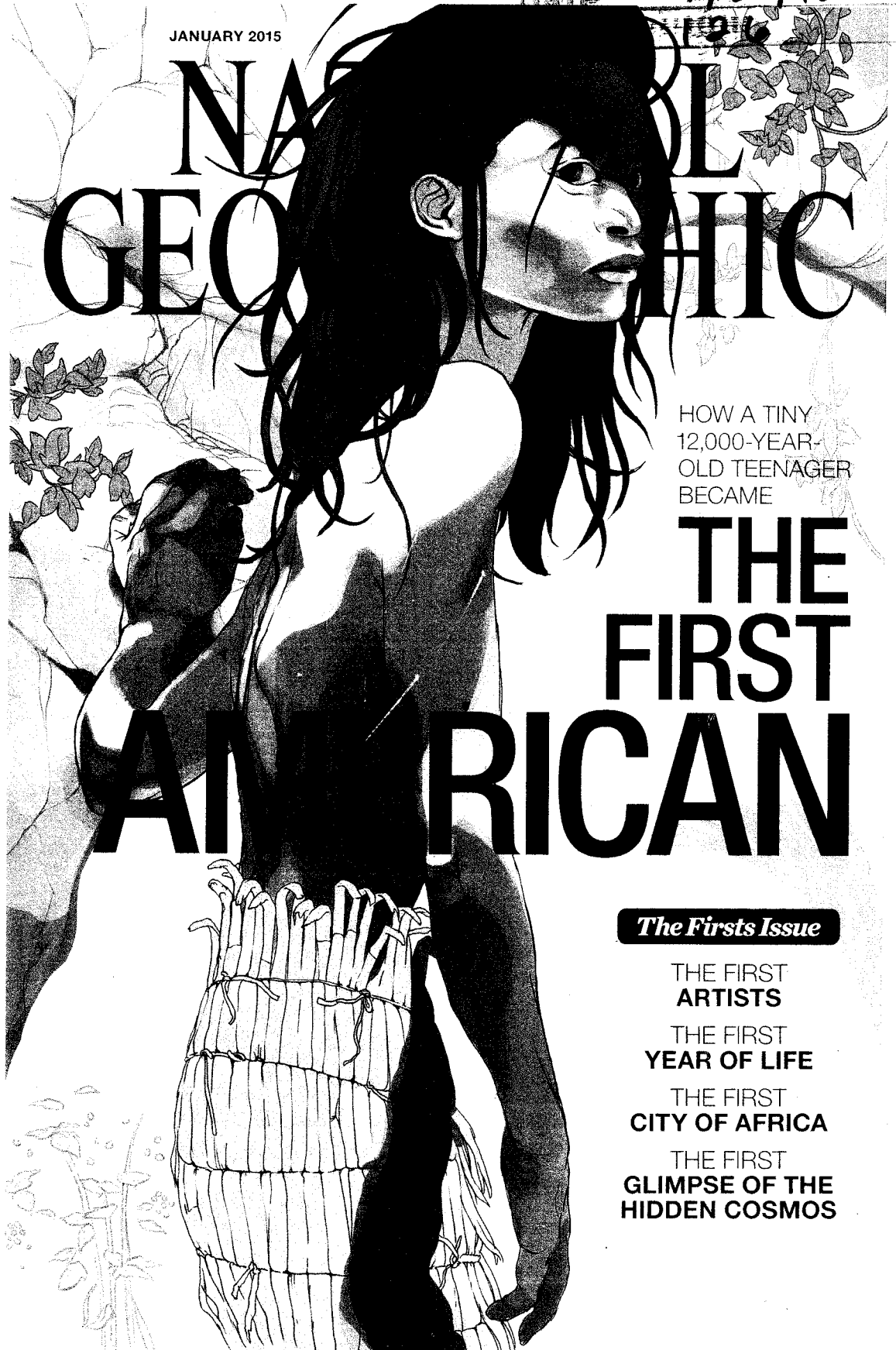
The Firsts Issue

THE FIRST
ARTISTS

THE FIRST
YEAR OF LIFE

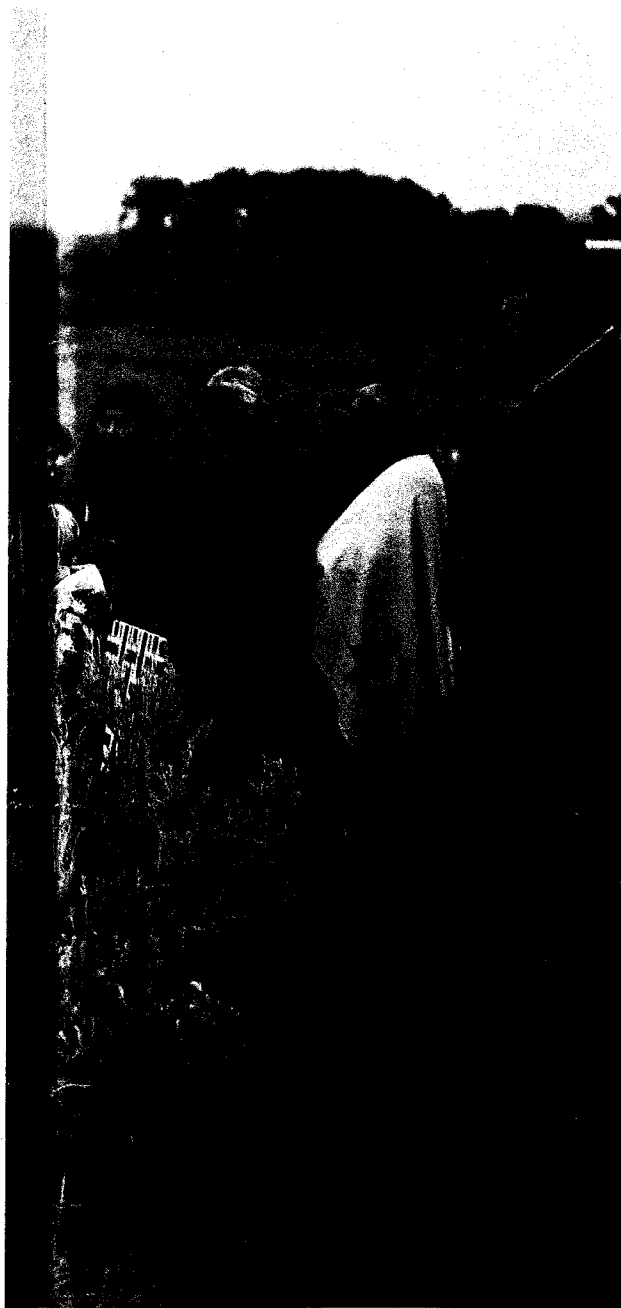
THE FIRST
CITY OF AFRICA

THE FIRST
GLIMPSE OF THE
HIDDEN COSMOS





Tribal leaders gather in Montana to rebury the 12,600-year-old bones of a boy known as the Anzick child. His DNA confirmed that today's Native Americans are direct descendants of the first Americans.



explored rivers and inlets along the way. There is already suggestive evidence of this in central Oregon, where projectiles resembling points found in Japan and on the Korean Peninsula and Russia's Sakhalin Island have been discovered in a series of caves, along with what is surely the most indelicate evidence of pre-Clovis occupation in North America: fossilized human feces.

In 2008 Dennis Jenkins of the University of Oregon reported that he'd found human coprolites, the precise term for ancient excrement, dating to 14,000 to 15,000 years old in a series of shallow caves overlooking an ancient lake bed near the town of Paisley. DNA tests have identified the Paisley Caves coprolites as human, and Jenkins speculates that the people who left them might have made their way inland from the Pacific by way of the Columbia or Klamath Rivers.

What's more, Jenkins points to a clue in the coprolites: seeds of desert parsley, a tiny plant with an edible root hidden a foot underground. "You have to know that root is down there, and you have to have a digging stick to get it," Jenkins says. "That implies to me that these people didn't just arrive here." In other words, whoever lived here wasn't just passing through; they knew this land and its resources intimately.

That seems to be an emerging theme. It appears to be the story not just at Paisley Caves but at Monte Verde and the Friedkin site in Texas as well. In each of these cases people seemed to have been settled in, comfortable with their environment and adept at exploiting it. And this suggests that long before the Clovis culture began spreading across North America, the Americas hosted diverse communities of people—people who may have arrived in any number of migrations by any number of routes. Some may have come by sea, others by land. Some may have come in such small numbers that traces of their existence will never be found.

"There's a whole lot of stuff that we don't know and may never know," says David Meltzer, an archaeologist at Southern Methodist University. "But we're finding new ways to find things and new ways to find things out." □

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